

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

No new matter is being added by virtue of the above amendment.

Dutt (USP 6,202,114) does not disclose const information packets that are dynamic.

Dutt (USP 6,202,114) and Dobbins (USP 5,825,722), considered singly or in combination, do not disclose a broadcast learn flag in an acknowledgement packet.

Stone (USP 6,041,057) is directed to neighboring switches that enable links for tag switching by sending a hello request with a range of proposed tag values for use on a particular link. Hello requests are acknowledge by hello responses 600. As a result of this link enablement, switches learn the available links for use when requesting tagged virtual connections for forwarding end-user messages. Thus, Stone discloses hello packets and hello packet acknowledgements for enabling tag switching on a link. Stone does not disclose the use of a "first acknowledgement packet" to establish a broadcast path in order to select the lowest latency path for the broadcast path, which are features recited in claim 1 and claim 11.

Applicants hereby petition for a one (1) month(s) extension of time to file this RCE. Please charge \$110.00 to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 for payment of the extension fee.

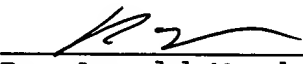
Favorable action is respectfully requested.

CONTACT INFORMATION

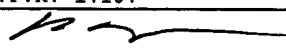
If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (805)681-5078.

Date: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
BALLARD C. BARE


By: Arnold M. de Guzman
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 39,955
805.681.5078
805.681.5076 (Fax)

Please send correspondence to:
IP Administration
Legal Department, M/S 35
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence, including the enclosures identified herein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below. If the Express Mail Mailing Number is filled in below, then this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10.			
Signature:			
Typed or Printed Name:	Arnold M. de Guzman, Reg. No. 39,955	Dated:	March 1, 2004
Express Mail Mailing Number (optional):	EV 323269465 US		